in its 27th Meeting held on 8th August, 2001 permitted M/s. Proagro Seeds Company Ltd. Gurgaon to conduct large scale open field trials only. The company has been involved in the research and development of transgenic hybrids of Indian mustard for improving the yield for the last three years, following Department of Biotechnology guidelines. During the field trials the hybrids have been tested and compared with the non-transgenic hybrid for various parameters. It has been found that the hybrids offered better agronomic performance over the best available varieties in the country. Subsequently, the request of the company to allow for commercial release and marketing of transgenic mustard and seed production was considered by the GEAC in the 34th Meeting held on 7th November, 2002. The GEAC has decided to further examine the data submitted by the company.

(d) and (e) Bt Cotton an insect resistant variety hybrid developed by Maharashtra Hybrid Seed Company (MAHYCO) is the first and only transgenic crop approved by the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) for commercial cultivation in India. The GEAC accorded conditional approval for release of three Bt Cotton hybrid varieties namely BT MECH 162, BT MECH 184 and BT MECH 12 into the environment after taking into consideration the reports of large scale field trials on Bt Cotton varieties and recommendations of the Monitoring Evaluation Committee constituted by the Department of Biotechnology and Indian Council for Agricultural Research and Biosafety evaluation. Some of the fields where these hybrid varieties are being cultivation have recently been monitored by a Committee constituted by this Ministry. The Committee found the performance of Bt. Cotton satisfactory in terms of higher number of bolls, reduced number of sprays for control of bollworms and higher yields in the cotton harvested so far.

Refusal for Genetically Modified Mustard

2424. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Genetic Engineering Approval Committee has refused to give its nod for Genetically Modified Mustard; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the rejection/deferring decision on the GM Mustard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) For large scale trials and commercial release, approval of the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee is mandatory. Based on the recommendation of the Monitoring-cum-Evaluation Committee of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM), the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) in its 27th Meeting held on 8th August, 2001 permitted M/s. Proagro Seeds Company India Ltd. to conduct large scale open field trials. Subsequently, the request of the company to allow for commercial release and marketing of transgenic mustard and seed production was considered by the GEAC in the 34th Meeting held on 7th November, 2002. The GEAC has decided to further examine the data submitted by the company.

FPIS by foreign industrialists

†2425. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of foreign industrialists offered to set up Food Processing Industries in the country, during the last three years;

(b) if so, the number of units proposed to be set up under these offers; and

(c) the extent of foreign and domestic capital investments, targeted to be made in these units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) to (c) During last three years *i.e.* 1999, 2000 and 2001, 124 foreign investment proposals entailing foreign investment of Rs. 779 crores approx. have been approved for setting up of food processing units in the country. Apart from these the proposed domestic investment intentions of Rs. 4685 crores approx. is

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.